4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Georgia 4-H Project Achievement is a learning process in which youth work to gain and strengthen skills in preparing and presenting a demonstration. Coweta 4-H continues to use new and creative ways to promote and teach 4-H Project Achievement and the results speak for themselves. Fifth-grade Project Achievement lessons, resources and informative handouts are interactive and focus on criteria that are required by the Georgia school system’s performance standards. Six high-school competitors moved on to compete at Georgia 4-H State Congress, the highest level of 4-H competition. At State Congress, three placed third, one placed second and one placed first. In addition, 17 other students were recognized at State Congress for mastering in their project areas. Those included 4-H members from the Dairy Heifer, Dairy Judging, Land Judging and Hippology teams. The Coweta 4-H program continues to be highly regarded for the number of 4-H members who excel in their project areas and reach master status, the highest honor in 4-H.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Coweta County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEVs) work in collaboration with the Newnan/Coweta Boys and Girls Clubs to provide the I Can Garden Club. This program allows children to learn about gardening through hands-on activities including garden journaling, seed dissection, seed germination, plant growth, transplanting and planting vegetables, composting, soil nutrients, pollinators, harvesting and storing vegetables, preparing and maintaining a garden, and eating the healthy vegetables they grow. I Can Garden Club students celebrated the end of their program by making their own vegetable pizza and learning about the health benefits of fresh ingredients, herbs and vegetables. The Coweta County Boys and Girls Clubs board of directors awarded its Volunteer of the Year award to our Coweta County MGEVs for their commitment, dedication, leadership and exceptional volunteer services.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Animal agriculture, specifically cattle production, is a male-dominated industry. According to statistics from a 2014 U.S. Bureau of Labor report, 76 percent of those who identified as farmers or ranchers were male. It is not lack of skill that prevents women from becoming more prevalent in the industry, but it may be lack of confidence. Small-acreage farming by women continues to increase in popularity in Coweta County. The Coweta County Extension program hosted a Southern Women in Agriculture Training in March 2018. Eighteen participants attended, representing 11 counties. During the workshop, participants rotated through six sessions including fencing, tractors, media training, trucks and trailers, cattle handling, and animal health. Each of these sessions were planned and taught by female UGA Extension agents from across the state of Georgia. Participation in the workshop was limited in order to maintain small group sizes and to encourage participants to actively engage and gain hands-on experience. Survey results indicated that 100 percent of participants increased their knowledge of the topics presented. Comments included, “I am so grateful for this training. I knew nothing and was super nervous. I really now have some beginning skills!” and “I drove a truck/trailer for the first time today! Thank you for all of the support and positivity from my instructors today.”

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Agriculture & Natural Resources

Goods and services related to Georgia's agriculture and natural resources affect each of the state's communities every day. Agriculture is Georgia's largest industry, and its direct and indirect economic impact totals $73.7 billion. More than 392,400 Georgia jobs are directly involved in commodity or food- and fiber-related industries.

UGA Extension faculty and staff play a key role in the success of this industry by sharing university-based research for Georgians to use on the farm and at home. Recommendations in areas including soil fertility, pest management, plant and crop varieties, water quality, and herd health and management focus on maximizing production and profits while minimizing environmental impacts.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension agents also provide homeowners and communities with information on lawn care, landscaping, gardening and water conservation through a variety of workshops. Some agents also work with schools on projects like community gardens and farm-to-school programs. Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteers give thousands of hours of service to their communities by answering questions in county offices and creating educational opportunities.

4-H Youth Development

As the youth development program of UGA Extension, 4-H is also part of a national network. Georgia 4-H reaches more than 170,000 fourth- through 12th-grade students across the state and helps students develop the knowledge, life skills and attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. This mission is fulfilled through hands-on learning experiences in agricultural and environmental awareness, leadership, communication skills, citizenship, energy conservation, health, and food and nutrition.

Georgia 4-H'ers are well-known for sharing their knowledge and volunteering throughout their communities. At the school and county levels, students participate in club meetings organized by 4-H Youth Development Extension agents. At the state level, students participate in competitions, summer camps and conferences. Some 4-H competitions and events are also offered at the regional and national levels.

Research indicates that, as a result of participating in 4-H, members are more engaged in their academic studies, less likely to be involved in risky behavior, and more likely to graduate from high school and continue their education.

Family & Consumer Sciences

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension specialists, agents and staff assist in addressing real-life issues faced by Georgians of all ages. They provide programs and the latest information on obesity, chronic disease, food and financial insecurity, family stresses, unhealthy housing, food safety and preservation, nutrition and more.

To help promote the positive development and safety of preschool, school-aged and adolescent youth, UGA Extension offers resources for parents, caregivers and others. Extension professionals in this program area lead consumer economics trainings and programs such as ServSafe®, Relationship Smarts, and PRIDE, a parent and teen driving education course.

Extension also promotes healthy lifestyles through statewide programs. Walk Georgia is a virtual, fitness-tracking resource that encourages physical fitness and healthy lifestyles to better the lives of Georgians. Other health programs managed by UGA include the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed). These classes teach families how to stretch their food dollars, eat healthier meals and snacks, and reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses.